

# **Flax – Mill – Open – Day**

**Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**At Derrylane Flax-Mill from 10 am**

## **Programme**

### **The cream of crafters – unique demonstrations**

***Maria Cardenas* is a master-tailor from Colombia. She has established a base in County Down and produces outstanding clothes. Most of the cloth she uses is either Irish tweed or Irish linen. She calls her products “clothes with simple and subtle shapes” – we call them beautiful. Maria is *new* at the Open Day – we are very excited.**

***Christine Boyle* is no stranger to the Flax – Mill and returns to the Open Day after 1 year’s break. The most sophisticated dyer we have met uses natural ingredients only. Some of the cloth she dyed for us has been price-winning. Great to see Christine back – watch while she is “*putting colour into it*” during her demonstration.**

***Heather Eves* designs and manufactures bespoke textiles for various uses, personal and around the home. Her raw materials are cotton, high quality wools and linen. The combination of materials and her great sense of colours are the secret for the fresh and exciting appearance of her cushions, phone-cases, bags for toiletries, clutch-bags etc. Good to have Heather back – she will be sure to have new creations with her.**

***Spanish Connection.* For the first time *Mayte*, Belfast based designer from Spain will take a stall at Flax – Mill. She up-cycles clothes and creates new pieces, many of them made from cloth woven at the Flax – Mill.**

**Liz Corrigan is back! Our “commission – tailor” will be showing some of the most beautiful dresses you have ever seen!**

**Of course she will take orders for made-to measure-clothes on the day. Great to have Liz back, despite her running her own very busy shop (“Lizzienelly”) in Randalstown now.**

**We also expect her daughter Eimear Corrigan at the Open Day to model some of Liz’s outstanding creations.**

**An Open Day without Brendan Cossgrove would not be complete! The metal-crafter from the Glens of Antrim will show his large range of forged and welded candle-holders, companion sets and other useful and beautiful products.**

**Watch him making rings from recycled silver-cutlery. *Give him your finger – he’ll make you a lovely ring there and then.***

**Eileen Patterson and Lynda Kelly will work on two spinning wheels.**

**Our favourite spinners in Ireland supply specialist yarn to Flax – Mill for bespoke weaves. Some of the raw material they use is from Alpacas kept by Rosemary Fergusson just a few hundred metres away from the mill. *Our visitors are welcome to see the animals and experience the spinning of yarn from their fleeces!***

**Deborah Toner designs and makes very beautiful cushions from linen woven at Flax – Mill. Her unique embroidery has been showcased in various exhibitions. Every cushion is a one – off piece of art and adds quality and ambience to your home.**

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### **Ireland’s only female blacksmith is back!**

**Danna Heron learned the difficult craft of forging from her father David Heron. The pair from Gilford/County Down will make the sparks fly on a hand-bellowed forge. They will manufacture pieces on site and also show a large collection of hand tools and some of their products.**

To add to the excitement around the forge, we have invited our friend, blacksmith **Marius Eitelwein** from Germany to team up with Danna and David – red hot stuff there, for sure!

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**Nigel Allison** is one of the most reputed painters on these shores. The master from County Antrim will show some brand-new originals and a number of prints – all of them unique pieces.

**Catrina Bell** is another new-comer to the Open Day. The felter makes “little people”, fairies, gnomes and the like from her own raw-material. “Away with the Fairies” she calls her operation. Our prediction: *You will love Catrina and her little ones!*

No man can turn pieces of wood into valuable and ever-lasting bowls, plates, candle-holders etc. like **Jackie Arrell!** The wood-turner who lives and works in Magherafelt, County Derry, sells his products world-wide – meet him at our Open Day!

**David Angus** isn't just going to appear on stage during the evening. The bass-player in Willie Drennan's band is one of the most accomplished manufacturers of flutes, tin-whistles and fifes. David might not be at his stall all day – he will be busy setting up the P. A. system for the concert – but we are delighted to run the stall for him – we wouldn't miss the products of such a master – crafter!

Needles to tell you that **Flax – Mill – Textiles** is going to have a big stall showing both finished products and cloth.

With many designers, tailors and finishers in attendance, we will do our very best to show all our new designs in linen and wool as well as some totally new scarves, a run of table-ware which will be on sale for the first time and new hand-woven blankets, to mention but a few products.

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**Add to that: Natural soap, bespoke jewellery, locally woven baskets and a few surprises we'll not tell you until the day and you understand why many people now buy their whole range of presents and "treats" for themselves at the Open day. A number of visitors from abroad have already sent us their order-lists.**

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### **2016 Special**

#### **Linen people on film – introduced by Bruce Clark**

**Across the north of Ireland, you can hear the subject of linen and flax being discussed in a rich variety of voices: from veteran flax-farmers to young designers, from retired factory workers to people who are still active in beetling and dyeing the noble fabric. For more than a year, amateur historian Bruce Clark and his film-making friends John and Christopher Thompson have been gathering up interviews and images from this extraordinary world – and they present a selection of their footage which has not been seen in public before.**

**This world-premiere will happen in the old mill cottage at 2 pm.**

**Demand will certainly be much larger than space, so please indicate to us your intention to take part.**

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### **2016 Special**

#### **Yoga – Session in the garden**

**For the first time we are offering Yoga in the relaxed atmosphere of the garden behind the mill-cottage. Two of the most profiled Yoga-teachers are coming: *Erin Douglas and Tony Hiley* who run the Bikram Yoga Studio in Lisburn.**

**Erin introduced Bikram Yoga to Northern Ireland when she opened her first studio in 2007. She has taught all over Canada, the USA and in different parts of Europe. She began her own yoga journey back in 2001 when doctors told her she would be in a**

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wheelchair by the time she was in her 40s. 25 years of bone degeneration in her spine and other illnesses left her with the choice of undergoing surgery with a 50 % chance of recovery or try yoga. She chose yoga, discovered Bikram Yoga and enjoys a healthy lifestyle and a career as one of the top-teachers today.

*Tony Hiley* origins from Leeds. He also chose yoga for health reasons, especially diabetes. He has now got a huge background in physical therapy, classical and modern ballet and teaches as Erin's partner.

**Only one session starting at 3 pm!**

**Please register for the session and ask us for details!**

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### **Other unique happenings:**

Classic cars galore – some old machinery you have never seen before – flax-breaking on the only working “hand - scutcher” in Ireland – Ireland's oldest commercial vehicle is returning to bring the flax home – old bicycles – and one ***big surprise we can't tell you before the day!***

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**As always: home-baked cakes, locally roasted coffee, for those who stay for the evening – concert: The best food you ever tasted and a 13m long buffet prepared by our catering-brigade from Berlin....**

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**Please note: Flax - Mill Open – Day is a private event and the owner reserves the right to refuse admission at any time. There is no cover charge for the day-events, evening – concert is invitation only.**